

Backcountry Use Regulations

Camping/Hiking

- A Backcountry Use Permit is required for all backcountry camping. A free permit may be obtained at the Park Visitor Center.
- Overnight camping is permitted at designated campsites, islands, and along the floodplains at least ½ mile away from ferry crossings or developed campgrounds, and within 100 feet of the river.
- Maximum group size is limited to 8 people per campsite, and no more than two tents.
- Camping must not exceed 14 consecutive days.
- Do not dig, trench, or level ground at your campsite.
- Keep fires small. Build fires only in established metal fire rings. Use only dead wood that is down. Put out campfires completely. Use a backpacking stove.
- Dispose of human waste at least 3 inches deep. Dispose of wash water at least 100 feet away from water source, trails, and campsites.
- Carry all trash out of the backcountry and properly dispose of it. “Pack it in: Pack it out.” Never bury trash.
- Store food so wildlife cannot access it.
- Pets are permitted, but must be on a leash and under physical restraint at all times. Do not leave pets unattended.
- All plants in Mammoth Cave National Park are protected. Collecting or digging plants is strictly prohibited in the park.
- Possessing, destroying, removing, digging, or disturbing archeological resources is prohibited.
- Entering any cave within the park without a permit is prohibited.
- All wildlife in the park is protected. Feeding or harassing wildlife is prohibited.
- Weapons, traps, and nets are strictly prohibited.
- Motor vehicles, including ATVs and motorcycles, are prohibited on trails
- Bicycling is allowed only on designated biking trails.

Horseback Riding

- Horseback riding is permissible on all designated trails north of the Green River except Sal Hollow Trail.
- Travel by horseback off of designated trails is prohibited.
- Pets are permitted but must be on a leash and under physical restraint at all times.
- Minimize erosion by riding single file in small groups; do not use switchbacks or shortcuts.
- Walk horses through mud on trails – not around it.
- Hitching horses to trees is prohibited. Use a picket line or hobble horses during breaks.
- Scatter horse manure at least 200 feet from trails, water sources, and campsites.
- Never frighten, harass, or feed wildlife.
- Hikers must yield to riders on trails. Horses must be slowed to a walk.
- Horseback riding is prohibited on all roads and trails south of Green River.
- **Horses are prohibited at Bluffs Campsite and on its access trail.**

“Leave No Trace” Guidelines

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors

Think Safety!

- Leave your itinerary with someone and sign in at a trail register; include your destination.
- When leaving your car, always lock the door and store all items out of sight.
- Carry a map or guide, a compass, and know where you are.
- Carry enough water for your trip. All water from natural sources found in the park must be treated before use.
- Be prepared for emergencies. Take a small first-aid kit, pocket knife, flashlight, matches, and appropriate clothing for weather possibilities.
- Obtain a weather forecast and observe weather conditions.
- Avoid poisonous snakes (rattlesnake and copperhead). Killing of snakes is prohibited. Avoid poison ivy and stinging nettles.
- Stay on designated trails.
- Streams may rise rapidly in heavy rain. Use extreme caution crossing flooded streams.
- Cellular telephone service may be unavailable.
- Use an insect repellent and check yourself carefully for ticks – ticks can carry Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme Disease, and both have been reported from the park.



Report All Accidents & Emergencies!

270-758-2115 / Mammoth Cave NP Ranger Station
or
911 / Police, Fire, Ambulance

PARK WATCH

To pass on information regarding criminal or suspicious activity to Park Rangers, please call toll free 1-888-219-1599. You may remain anonymous.



Mammoth Cave
National Park
Kentucky

Backcountry Map & Guide



